

House Resolution 1785

By: Representative Benfield of the 85th

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the United States Congress to adopt legislation that promotes jobs and innovative
2 energy development, heightens national energy and economic security, positions the United
3 States to be an international leader in the field of clean energy, and addresses the
4 consequences of climate change without preempting states' rights to control emissions and
5 to promote renewable energy; and for other purposes.

6 WHEREAS, the United States currently spends approximately one billion dollars a day to
7 import oil, and by 2030, United States Department of Energy estimates that without
8 comprehensive clean energy legislation the country's reliance on foreign oil could cost eight
9 and one-half trillion dollars; and

10 WHEREAS, under United States' current energy policy, American wealth is being
11 transferred to nations that are rich with oil, and many of those nations are politically unstable
12 or unfriendly to the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, the effects of climate change include the increase of political and social
14 instability in poorer regions of the world, thus presenting potential security challenges for the
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, clean energy jobs are growing at a rate 250% faster than the rest of the
17 economy; and

18 WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information Administration projects clean energy job
19 growth of up to two million new jobs resulting from comprehensive clean energy legislation;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, there is significant global competition for the development of clean energy and
22 without comprehensive clean energy legislation the United States economy could be
23 weakened and American innovation threatened; and

24 WHEREAS, thousands of businesses have joined together to call for comprehensive federal
25 clean energy legislation including, among others, members of the United States Climate
26 Action Group and the Clean Economy Network; and

27 WHEREAS, over the past two decades, in the absence of comprehensive federal clean
28 energy legislation, states have been the true "laboratories of democracy" by advancing clean
29 energy policies; and

30 WHEREAS, many states have adopted renewable energy standards and goals that require a
31 significant percentage of a state's electricity to be generated from non-fossil-fuel renewable
32 energy sources such as wind, solar, wave, hydropower, and biomass and biofuels, sources
33 which have led to significant job growth in the clean energy sector of the national economy;
34 and

35 WHEREAS, a national statutory framework for clean energy will provide a predictable
36 regulatory framework that will spur innovation and discovery in the clean energy sector; and

37 WHEREAS, without Congressional action, the Environmental Protection Agency has
38 announced their intention to regulate greenhouse gas emissions through administrative rules
39 rather than through legislation; and

40 WHEREAS, the United States House passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act
41 on June 26, 2009, on a bipartisan vote, and bipartisan members of the United States Senate
42 are currently considering and drafting the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act; and

43 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has the historic opportunity to enact comprehensive
44 clean energy jobs and climate legislation that will strengthen our national security, grow
45 clean energy jobs, reduce pollution, and advance America innovation.

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
47 the members of this body request that the United States Congress pass comprehensive clean
48 energy jobs and climate legislation that creates a unified framework for reducing greenhouse
49 gas emissions, protects low and moderate income Americans from increased energy costs,
50 invests substantially in energy efficiency, and supports alternative sources of energy
51 including but not limited to wind, solar, wave, hydroelectricity, biofuels, advanced nuclear
52 energy research, and clean coal technologies.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
54 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to each member of the Georgia
55 congressional delegation.